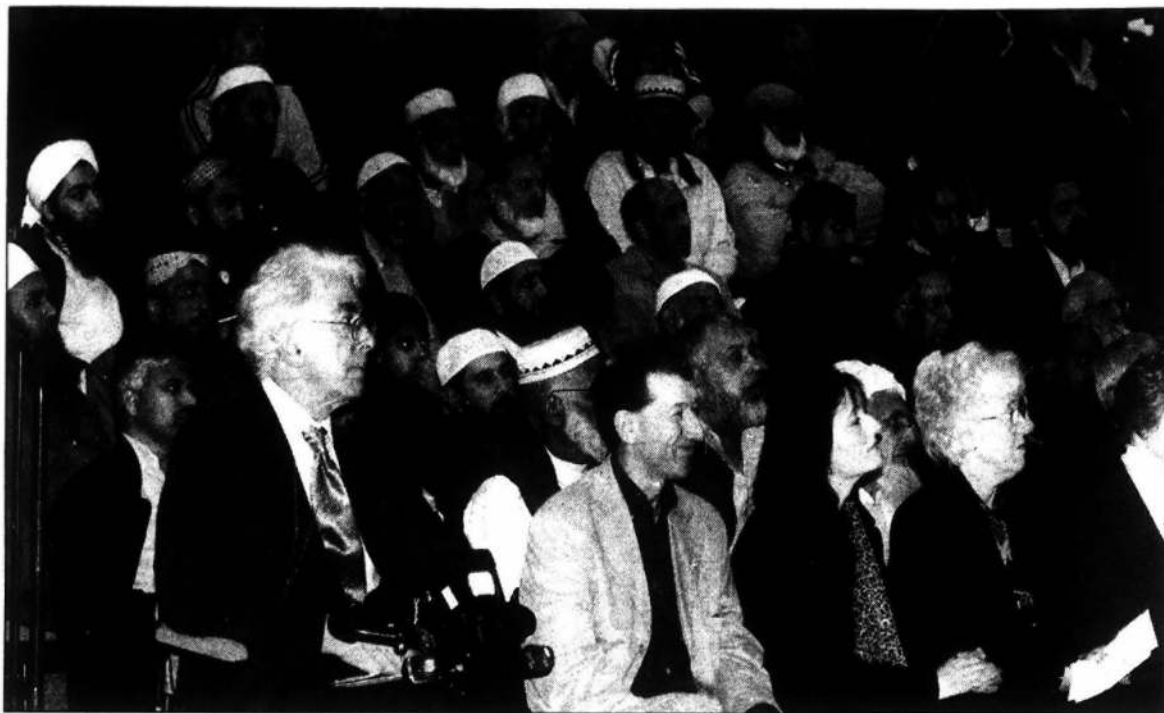
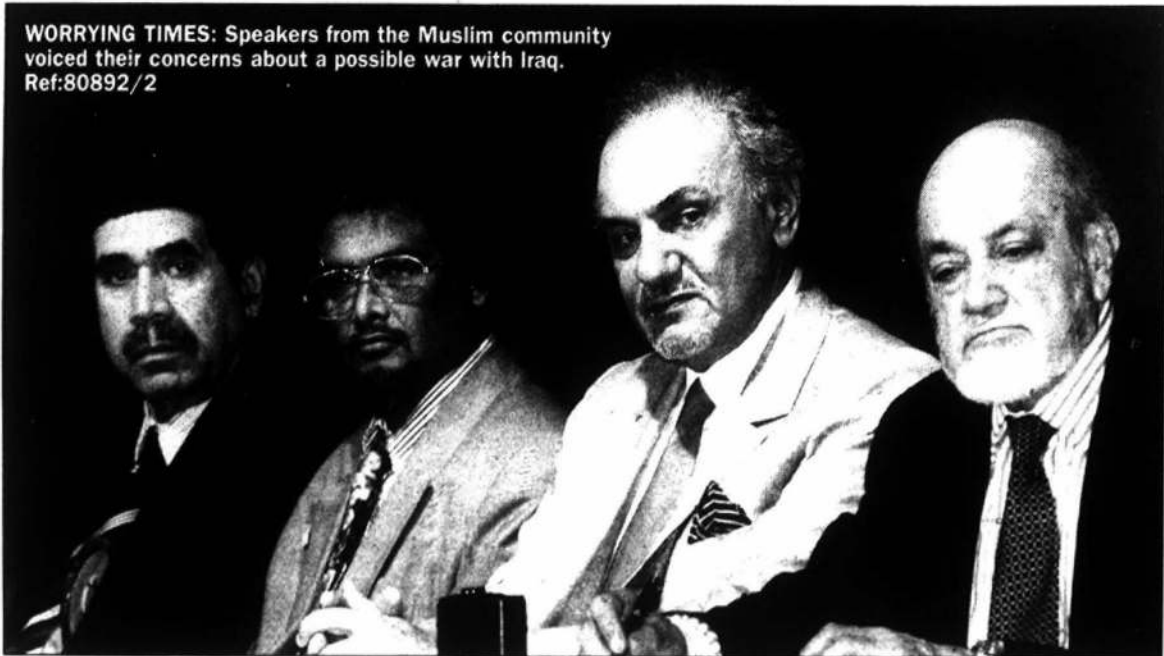


Keeping community together



COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER: Around 200 Muslims from the UK and Ireland attended the 30th winter conference of the Union of Muslim Organisations (UMO), in Maidenhead. Ref:80892/10

WORRYING TIMES: Speakers from the Muslim community voiced their concerns about a possible war with Iraq. Ref:80892/2



Hannah Satterthwaite reports from a Muslim conference in Maidenhead

MUSLIMS from the UK and Ireland met with politicians for a national conference in Maidenhead over the weekend.

Around 200 members of the Union of Muslim Organisations (UMO) met for their 30th annual winter conference at The Magnet Leisure Centre on Saturday and at Ellington Primary School on Sunday.

The theme for the meeting was British Muslims' response to the Middle East crisis.

Maidenhead's Tory MP, Theresa May, Cllr Mike Bruton (Lib dem, Belmont) and the Saudi Arabian ambassador Prince Turki Al-Faisal were among the guest speakers.

After a recitation of the Qur'an, secretary general of the UMO, Dr Syed Aziz Pasha, told the audience the Muslim community would suffer if there was a war with Iraq.

He said there were many other problems which needed solutions, including globalisation, unrest in Pakistan and global warming.

"This war is an unjust war and totally unnecessary," he said.

"It is time for us to abolish war altogether - wars bring destruction and total dislocation of communities."

He said Muslims must come together to urge the governments of the world to

work out a peaceful solution through dialogue.

Mrs May said while negotiations for a peaceful settlement were important, the Iraq crisis required action.

"We have a saying - all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing - and there are times when good men must act and do something to make sure evil does not triumph," she said.

"This is action in relation to an individual country - to Iraq and to Saddam Hussein - not a war against Islam," added Mrs May.

She praised the work done by the inter-faith group in Maidenhead, which has recently met to discuss ways to keep the community together.

"I hope the example you see here in Maidenhead can be an example to people everywhere," she said.

Cllr Mike Bruton, who spoke as a committed Christian and one of the founders of the interfaith group, said he feared a war under present circumstances would result in great anger and an increased risk of terrorism worldwide.

He said: "I urge all present today to commit to a fresh initiative to offer the hand of friendship to members of other faiths and to support each other in times of crisis."

Pictures by Helen Priest



DEEP IN THOUGHT: A guest listens to speakers at the Union of Muslim Organisations conference at The Magnet on Saturday. Ref:80892/5

TRADE WINDOWS

THE CLEAR CHOICE
FOR QUALITY, VALUE AND SECURITY

Manufacturers and Installers of Aluminium & PVCu

The complete service from design to installation

Expertly made and installed by our own Craftsmen

**Windows • Doors • Patio Doors
• Conservatories**

Which is right for you?

ALUMINIUM

PVCu

After 16 years making windows - we still do both



• For Free advice Tel: **01628 529535**

Visitors always welcome to our Factory

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

UNIT 30 • SOHO MILLS • WOOBURN GREEN
HIGH WYCOMBE • BUCKS • HP10 0PF

'Commit to a fresh initiative to offer the hand of friendship to members of other faiths and to support each other'

Colour copies of these pictures can be bought by filling in the order form on the From Our Files page or by phoning 01628 670145. You can also order these pictures and others from the event not published in the newspaper by visiting our Queen Street office or our online picture gallery at www.advertiserphotogallery.co.uk

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS: Members of the Muslim community, diplomats and politicians met at The Magnet over the weekend. Ref:80892/13

